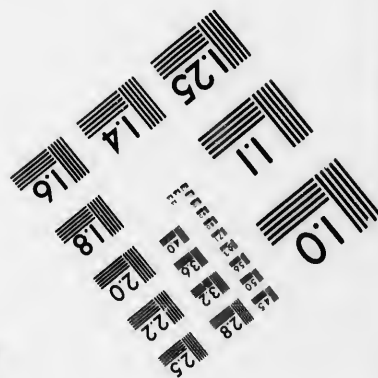
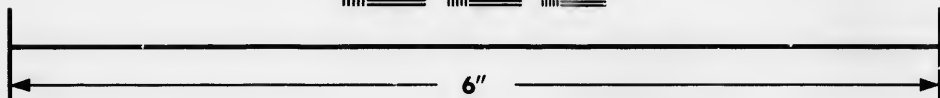
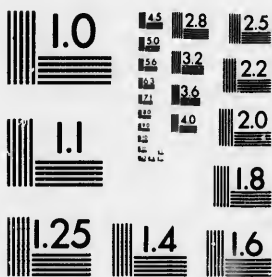


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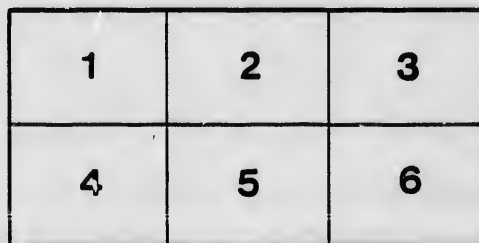
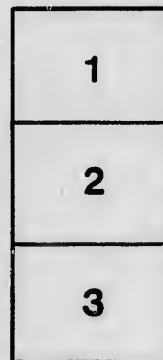
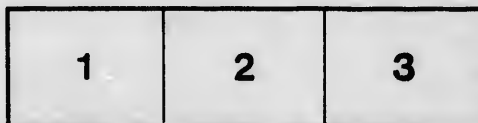
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OXFORD REFORM

TO THE

HON. FRANCIS

MONTREAL:

SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 24, 1846.

[From the Long Point Advocate.]

On Tuesday, the 13th instant, the Liberal Members of the Brock District Council and a few of their friends, entertained the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS, the late Representative of the County of Oxford, at a PUBLIC DINNER at the Royal Oak Tavern, Woodstock. The day was unfortunately very unfavourable, which prevented the attendance of a number of gentlemen from remote parts of the country.

About 5 o'clock, P. M., the Chair was taken by Wm. Carroll, Esq., District Councillor of Norwich; the Vice Chairmen were Eliakim Malcolm, Esq., District Councillor of Oakland, and Charles Chadwick, Esq., District Councillor of Dereham. Mr. Hincks sat on the right of the Chairman, and Jared Vining, Esq., District Councillor of Nissouri, the Senior Member of the Council on his left.

After doing justice to an excellent dinner, provided by Mr. Hill, the Chairman rose to propose the health of the Queen.

He said he thought he could propose that Toast with great propriety. He had been, he might say, born a Loyalist. His father was one of eight brothers who had emigrated to the United States before the Revolution.—When the war broke out his father was the only one of the eight that adhered to the British Crown (cheers.) He had afterwards emigrated to New Brunswick, where he (the Chairman) was born. His father had served in the British army, and he (the Chairman) had done so likewise, (applause) and he had imbibed principles of loyalty from his earliest youth. (Loud cheers.) He felt assured that the health of the Queen would be heartily responded to.

1st. THE QUEEN.

The next regular toast was prefaced by the Chairman with a few appropriate remarks, and honoured with the respect due to the consort of our beloved sovereign.

2nd. PRINCE ALBERT and the ROYAL FAMILY.

3rd. The GOVERNOR GENERAL.

In proposing this Toast the Chairman said, he knew little of the Governor General, but he believed he was an old soldier, and as such he respected him, as well as on account of his being the Representative of his Sovereign. He (the Chairman) was himself an old soldier, having served throughout the last war, and having been in every engagement on the frontier.

4th. THE PEOPLE—the only true source of legitimate power.

The Chairman had now to propose THE TOAST of the evening: Our Guest, the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS, whose presence among us after a long absence, was most cordially welcome. (Great applause.) When, said the Chairman, it became known that Mr. Hincks was in Upper Canada, the Council of the District happening to be in session, the Reform members thereof determined upon inviting him to accept a public dinner at Woodstock. The time for preparation

of the last three years, and to compare the conduct of our Ministers with that of English statesmen. Twice within the past year has Mr. Draper, by making overtures to the leading members of the Opposition, virtually acknowledged that his administration does not enjoy a sufficient amount of public confidence. At this moment the Ministry is virtually disorganized. One member resigned several months ago and his place has not been filled up, although it has been offered to a member of the Opposition, and has been by him refused. (Cheers.) Mr. Secretary Daly made arrangements several months since to receive the vacant office of Civil Secretary, which has been conducted by a clerk since Mr. Higginson's departure, merely to suit the convenience of the Ministry. Mr. Papineau, after an absence of months, has returned to his office, although he only holds it until it is convenient to appoint a successor. Compare these proceedings with English practice. When Sir Robert Peel resigned previous to the last session of Parliament, Lord John Russell was called on to form an administration. He experienced difficulties from want of co-operation among his friends, & he immediately abandoned the task, and his opponent was reinstated. He did not attempt to conduct the business of the country with an incomplete Cabinet, nor would he have been suffered to do so. But here, gentlemen, we have during the last three years had a Ministry whose whole conduct is a practical violation of responsible Government—which introduces measures to Parliament only to abandon them, and which is unable to carry out the policy of the party by which it has been placed in power. We have in the circumstances attending a late appointment which has caused some discussion, proof positive that the practice of the present Government is not dissimilar from that of Lord Metcalfe. Sir Allan MacNab applied personally to the Governor for the appointment of a deputy. He was authorised to write to his friend with an offer of the appointment and the Ministers afterwards compelled the Governor to retract his promise, thus bringing the Government of the country into contempt with the public. I need not however prosecute this subject. Responsible Government will never be carried out honestly by men who are at heart opposed to it, and whose real object is to induce a belief that its working is impracticable. The remedy is with the people alone. They alone are responsible for the present state of affairs, and they will do well instead of expecting relief from a change of Governors, to exert themselves to secure a better representation. To do that we must convince the public that our objects are such as ought to entitle us to their support. The present is a most favourable opportunity for doing so. Party spirit has in a great degree subsided and the public at large are enquiring calmly as to the views of public men. It is singular enough that at this crisis the most prominent question before the public is one calculated to unite in its advocacy many who have formerly been opposed to each other, but whose interests with respect to this measure are identically the same. I mean the

Assessment Bill had also been denounced at the last election. You will all recollect the cry about board fences, fruit trees, &c., but when the present Ministry introduced a bill upon the subject, the very same principle had been adopted of assessing according to value. True, the assessment of personal property was not provided for, the whole taxation being thrown upon the owners of real property, who are the farmers. I have perhaps already trespassed too long on the patience of my friends. (Cries no, no, go on, go on,) but I conceive it incumbent upon me to refer to one or two subjects of a personal character, and I will endeavour to be as brief as possible. Most of those present have heard of the Rev. Mr. Burns, who paid a visit to this part of the province & has caused some excitement. It is not my intention to say anything disrespectful of that gentleman now, nor have I ever done so. I disapprove of his proceedings believing them calculated to excite dissension among the people, and I fearlessly expressed this opinion, nor can I now retract it. I will state facts. Mr. Burns came to Montreal, a stranger, and almost immediately commenced preaching in the streets, his object being to convert the Roman Catholics. He spoke of the religion of the great majority of the people of Montreal in terms which led to violence, and the end of it was, some two thousand persons assembled in the streets of the city with arms in their hands to shed one another's blood. Such was the state of feeling caused by Mr. Burns' preaching. If that gentleman were right then all the other clergy of the province were wrong, inasmuch as none of them had pursued a similar course, and Mr. Burns himself, by abandoning the field, has virtually admitted that he was in error.—There is another subject upon which I desire to make some explanation. I allude to what has been termed the Jesuit Controversy. Now all I desire to do on the present occasion is to make a plain statement of facts. I will not revive old controversies, nor do I wish to impute blame to any one who has differed from me; but I certainly must say that my views have been wholly misunderstood.—The origin of the dispute was a statement made by the Rev. Mr. Wilkes at New York to the effect that great ignorance prevailed among the people of Lower Canada, and that this was caused by the influence of the Catholic Clergy against education. I, connected as I was with a press which was the organ of Catholics as well as Protestants, felt it my duty to correct what I believe to be a misstatement. It was not a fact that the Catholic Clergy had opposed education; on the contrary, the educational institutions of Lower Canada are highly creditable to those who have established them. At their colleges an excellent classical education, with board, is provided for less than £30 a year. I will not pursue the subject, but will just read an extract or two from papers which all will admit to be good authority. The first, strange to say, is from the Banner. That print, on a recent occasion, said: "the Church of Rome, which was wont to dread education, and the Church of England, which habitually neglected

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# REFORM DINNER TO THE FRANCIS HINCKS.

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matter brought before them by our worthy  
Chairman, after patiently investigating all the  
circumstances, SUSTAINED THE ESTIMATES OF  
VALUATORS, there being but one dissenting  
voice." (Great cheering.) One topic more  
said Mr Hincks, and I have done. Gentlemen  
will recollect the Commission of the Peace  
issued when I had the honor to represent this  
County. On that commission both parties  
were represented—(cheers)—but when the  
new one was framed, not a single Reformer's  
name was added to it. (Hear, hear) And  
what sort of selections were made from the  
other party? I can truly say that I have heard  
more complaints against Mr. Riddell, from his  
own friends than from mine. (Cheers.) I  
will ask my friend on my right from West  
Oxford whether the Reformers would not much  
rather have had such a man as Mr. Holcroft,  
who is generally respected by his neighbours,  
placed in the Commission than most of those  
who have been appointed? In this neighbour-  
hood, one would suppose that a person framing  
a Commission of the Peace could scarcely have  
overlooked Mr. Finkle, one of the most enter-  
prising men in the District, and who has done  
as much as any other man to advance the  
prosperity of Woodstock. But instead of such  
men, strangers, with whose names I am un-  
acquainted, and who have only been a year or  
two in the County, were selected. (Hear,  
hear.) In Norwich I have been asked by  
several respectable farmers, what their town-  
ship had done to cause the Government to in-  
flict such a magistracy upon it as John A.  
Tid. (Hear, hear, hear.) Before concluding  
I wish to propose a toast. I will give you:  
*Our worthy Chairman and the Brock District  
Council.* (Loud cheers.) The Chairman I  
have been acquainted with for many years, and  
I know him to be a consistent and zealous Re-  
former, and one who by his own industry, has  
acquired a valuable property. He is highly  
respected here and was equally so in that part  
of the country where he formerly resided.  
(Cheers.) I observe with much pleasure that  
my venerable friend, Mr. Vining, is also present.  
That gentleman is the senior Councillor  
of the District, and one of those early settlers  
to whom the country is so much indebted. I  
will now propose the CHAIRMAN, WILLIAM  
CHOLLE, ESQ., AND THE BROCK DISTRICT COUN-  
CIL. (The Hon. gentleman resumed his seat  
and loud and continued cheering.)

The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks for  
the honour which had been done him. He  
was not in the habit of attending Public Din-  
ners, and he felt himself unable to do justice to  
the no man imposed his present duty on  
me if he had, however, done his best (cheers.)

Mr. VINING said, as his name had been men-  
tioned by their hon. guest, he would say a few  
words in reply to the toast. He was the oldest  
member of the Brock District Council, having  
been elected on the establishment of Municipal  
Institutions in the Province. He consequently  
has much experience of their working, and he  
believed they were well calculated to promote  
the improvement of the country. He could  
not help reminding them of the exertions of

would be multiplied by ten. (Loud cheers.)  
He (Mr. C.) entertained no doubt of the re-  
sult of the next election, and he trusted that an  
opportunity would soon be afforded them of  
giving expression to their feelings—

8. The Hon. ROBERT BALDWIN, and our fellow  
Reformers in other parts of Western Canada.—  
The Hon. L. H. LAFONTAINE, and the Reformers  
of the Eastern section of the Province—may the  
union so happily existing between them be long  
continued. (Prolonged cheering.)

Mr. HINCKS returned his sincere thanks on be-  
half of the gentlemen whose names had been as-  
sociated with this toast, and who, he could assure  
his friends, would feel much gratified at the com-  
pliment paid to them. He then enlarged on the  
importance of cultivating a cordial union be-  
tween the Reformers of the two sections, and  
referred to the attempt which had been made to  
create religious dissensions.

Mr. CHADWICK, District Councillor of Dere-  
ham, proposed the next toast, which he pre-  
faced with a few appropriate remarks—

9. THE CLERGY of all denominations, and es-  
pecially those which act consistently on the  
voluntary principle.

The CHAIRMAN, on rising to propose the  
next toast, said that he was a plain Farmer,  
and did not profess to understand much of  
commercial matters, but he was fully con-  
vinced of the truth of the principles avowed  
on this subject by Mr. Hincks, and he had,  
therefore, much pleasure in proposing the fol-  
lowing sentiment—

10. A speedy Repeal of the Imperial Duties  
and of the Navigation Laws, and Free Trade all  
over the world. (Loud cheers.)

11. Our Guests from the adjoining Districts  
who have honoured us with their presence this  
day.

M. H. FOLEY, Esq., of Simcoe, Editor of the  
*Long Point Advocate*, returned thanks, and ex-  
pressed his high gratification at being present  
on the occasion. He had thought of address-  
ing them on several topics, but found himself  
forested, first by the Hon. Gentleman who  
was their guest, and afterwards by the Gentle-  
man on his right, who had taken up the only  
subject which was left to him, viz., the pro-  
scription of Reformers by the present Govern-  
ment. In the Talbot District a new Commis-  
sion of the Peace had been issued, but altho'  
in the former Commission the names of gen-  
tlemen of both parties had been recommended  
by their Member, Mr. Powell, when a late one  
was issued, that gentleman, though Member  
for the County, had not even been consulted,  
(cries of "shame, shame") and as had been  
the case in this District so it was in the Talbot,  
the new appointments were generally unsatis-  
factory, even to the Tories. Their select-  
ing Commissioners to decide on the Rebellion  
claims, altho' certainly party considerations  
should have been overlooked, all the persons  
appointed were Tories. As the alterations in  
the School Act had been spoken of by their  
Guest, he wished to state one fact, and it was  
an important one, in confirmation of his state-  
ment that the expense would not be reduced  
by the abolition of the office of Township Su-  
perintendent. In the Talbot District, where he

were thoroughly qualified. He wished this to  
be well understood. Parties could apply to the  
Visitors for relief if they thought proper. In  
conclusion he had to express his satisfaction at  
the spread of education in this District, as well  
as throughout the country.

Mr. KINTREA had been requested to propose  
the Press. He made some very appropriate  
remarks on the influence of that great organ  
of public opinion, to which we were indebted  
for all the great reforms which had been  
carried out.

13. The Press—that engine so powerful for  
good or evil.

Mr. MENZIES, of the "Woodstock Herald,"  
having been called on, returned thanks for the  
compliment to the Press. Although he saw  
around him several gentlemen connected with  
the Press, he believed he might say he was  
the oldest member of it in the room, perhaps  
in the Province. The benefits derived from  
the Press were universally acknowledged.  
He would never have been able to read the  
Bible but for the Press; it would have been  
in all probability out of his reach. It would  
be well for those who admitted the advantages  
derived from a free and independent Press,  
to reflect whether they gave that Press the  
support to which it is entitled. (Cheers.)

Mr. KEARNEY, of the "St. Thomas Free  
man," had also to acknowledge the com-  
pliment paid to the Press, and while he did so,  
he would remind them of the services of the  
Hon. gentleman who was their guest that  
evening, and who if he had no other claims  
on their gratitude, was entitled to it for the  
noble stand which he took after the Rebellion,  
when few dared to give expression to public  
opinion. He (Mr. Kearney) was well ac-  
quainted with the sentiments of the Reformers  
of Middlesex, and he knew how high their  
hon. guest stood in their estimation. He had  
no doubt that if Oxford desired to give him up,  
Middlesex would be most happy to receive  
him. (Cheers.) He (Mr. K.) had lately had  
an opportunity of hearing the sentiments of  
one of the leading men of the Reform party,  
regarding that hon. gentleman. That gentle-  
man had expressed his belief that on Commer-  
cial subjects there was no one connected with  
the party at all to be compared to him. He  
had again to thank them for the honor done to  
him, and to assure them of the cordial sympathy  
of the Reformers of Middlesex, several of whom  
would have been present but for the weather.

Mr. GOBLE, of Blenheim, had been entrusted  
with a toast, but he felt great diffidence in  
speaking to it. It was the first Dinner of the  
kind he had ever attended, and he was not ac-  
customed to public speaking. The advan-  
tages of Responsible Government had been  
very desecrated on, but to whom are we chiefly  
indebted for the concession of that principle?  
He (Mr. Goble) well recollects the time, not  
long distant either, when our Representatives  
had little or no influence on the Government,  
when Bills were passed by the House of As-  
sembly only to be tormented by the Legisla-  
tive Council. The Report of the Earl of Dur-

respected him, as well as on account of his being the Representative of his Sovereign. He (the Chairman) was himself an old soldier, having served throughout the last war, and having been in every engagement on the frontier.

4th. **THE PEOPLE**—the only true source of legitimate power.

The Chairman had now to propose **THE** : OAST of the evening : Our Guest, the Hon. FRANCIS HINCKS, whose presence among us after a long absence, was most cordially welcome. (Great applause.) When, said the Chairman, it became known that Mr. HINCKS was in Upper Canada, the Council of the District happening to be in session, the Reform members thereof determined upon inviting him to accept a public dinner at Woodstock. The time for preparation was necessarily very short, and it was impossible to communicate with many parts of the District. Unfortunately, too, the weather had proved unfavourable. The rain, which had fallen incessantly during the last night and the whole of the present day, had rendered the cross roads almost impassable. From his township (Norwich) from 15 to 20 of his immediate neighbours had intended to be present, but had been unable to reach town. From Burford, a large party was expected. He (the Chairman) and gentlemen present expressed their public opinion. Norwich he could say, there was no chance. The people there were of the mind, and would be prepared to do their duty on every occasion. He (the Chairman) was a Reformer of thirty years standing (great cheering) and had been a close observer of passing events, and he could say that the experience of his life had only confirmed him in his opinions. Nothing would do for Canada but Responsible Government honestly administered. (Great applause.) As an able advocate of that great principle, and of every measure calculated to extend the liberties of the people, and as a faithful representative of this county, he would now propose the toast which he had read.

5th. **OUR GUEST, THE HON. FRANCIS HINCKS**—we only wait an opportunity to return him triumphantly to Parliament. (Loud and long continued cheering for several minutes, after which Mr. HINCKS spoke to the following effect :)

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge with the deepest gratitude another mark of esteem and confidence from the Reformers of the County of Oxford in addition to the many which I have received during the last six years. I can only hope to repay you, gentlemen, by my zeal in advocating what we all believe to be, the best interests of our common country—that country which I trust is equally dear to those of us who have adopted it as our own, as to those on whom it has perhaps a stronger claim, as the country of their birth. Much as I am gratified by the compliment paid to myself on the present occasion, I should be sorry indeed if this demonstration were not calculated to produce more important results than mere personal gratification. I hope and believe that it will be the means, in some degree at least, of promoting the success of the great cause to which we are devoted, and which I cannot better describe than as **THE CAUSE OF CANADA**. We desire that our principles and objects should be well understood, and we wish, if possible, to convince former opponents that they have either misunderstood our principles and objects, or that their own are erroneous. We wish to correct those misstatements which are from time to time circulated in order to mislead the public. I shall endeavour as briefly as the nature of the subject will permit to touch upon the principal political topics of the day.—You have been told, gentlemen, that the great question of "Responsible Government," which has so long agitated the country, is finally settled. I would wish to believe that this is the case. I am aware that our political opponents, both in and out of Parliament, profess to adopt theoretically those views on that question for which we have so long struggled. But has their practice been in accordance with their professions? I only ask you to review the history

of a belief that its working is impracticable. The remedy is with the people alone. They alone are responsible for the present state of affairs, and they will do well instead of expecting relief from a change of Governors, to exert themselves to secure a better representation. To do that we must convince the public that our objects are such as ought to entitle us to their support. The present is a most favourable opportunity for doing so. Party spirit has in a great degree subsided and the public at large are enquiring calmly as to the views of public men. It is singular enough that at this crisis the most prominent question before the public is one calculated to unite in its advocacy many who have formerly been opposed to each other, but whose interests with respect to this measure are identically the same. I mean the question of **FREE TRADE**. On this subject there have been the grossest misrepresentations. Attempts have been made to persuade the farmers of this country that their interests are at variance with Free Trade. So far from this being true, gentlemen, the Farmers are more interested than any other class in promoting a free trade policy. The protection which they formerly enjoyed in the English markets for their great staple has been abolished, and the question now is whether the Imperial duties affecting the consumers shall also be abolished. On this subject the interests of the people of all parties are the same, and yet when the question was under the consideration of Parliament, the Ministers backed by their Upper Canada majority, not satisfied with the protective duties imposed by the Imperial act, actually voted to place higher Provincial duties on goods imported by inland carriage than on those brought by the St. Lawrence. The effect of this was to impose an indirect tax upon the people of Upper Canada, and which was effected by the votes of her own Representatives (cries of shame shame.) Connected with this subject is the repeal of the Navigation Laws. Our produce has to compete with that of other countries in the English markets and it is essentially necessary that we should be enabled to transport it on the lowest possible terms. I would now offer a few remarks on the subject of the Common School Act of last Session. It will be in the recollection of many of those whom I have the honour of addressing, that a great cry had been got up against me in Zorra before the last election, on account of the taxes imposed by the old act. But I would ask whether that principle has been interfered with in the new act? Assuredly not. The great principle of the former Act has been retained and some alterations or improvements as they were said to be, made in the details. I do not believe that these are improvements. One of the most important changes was the abolition of township superintendants, and notwithstanding all that has been said on this subject, I am of opinion that it will be found absolutely necessary to restore those officers. The substitution of unpaid township visitors will never answer. (Hear, hear.) Another alteration was the requirement to keep the schools open six months instead of three. Of course all will admit that the longer the school is kept open, the better; but it is cruel in the extreme to tell people who are taxed for the support of Schools, and who are too poor to maintain one longer than three months, that they should have no share of the public money. (Loud cheers.) I firmly believe that there are many school districts in the province which are not able to support a school longer than three months, and the late Act would inflict a great injustice on them by compelling them to contribute out of their poverty, towards the support of the schools of the richer districts, whilst they themselves are not allowed to receive the slightest benefit from the expenditure of their own money. (Loud cheers.) The whole principle of the new School Act is to increase the power of the superintendent. No one could doubt that the framers of that Act would have given us the Prussian system if he had dared so to outrage public opinion. He went as far in depriving the people of power as he deemed prudent. The spirit of the new Act is to centralize power in the hands of the superintendent—that of the old, to leave it with the people. (Great and prolonged cheering.) The

caused by the influence of the Catholic clergy against education. I, connected as I was with a press which was the organ of Catholics as well as Protestants, felt it my duty to correct what I believe to be a misstatement. It was not a fact that the Catholic Clergy had opposed education; on the contrary, the educational institutions of Lower Canada are a richly creditable to those who have established them. At their colleges an excellent classical education, with board, is provided for less than £30 a year. I will not pursue the subject, but will just read an extract or two from papers which all will admit to be good authority. The first, strange to say, is from the *Banner*. That print, on a recent occasion, said: "the Church of Rome, which was wont to dread education, and the Church of England, which habitually neglected it, are now disposed to work in the opposite direction." This, I contend, embodies all that I have ever said on the subject. The next extract I will read is from the *Montreal Witness*. The Hon. Gentleman here read an extract on the subject of the schools of the *Preses*, at Montreal, showing that about 1800 pupils received gratuitous education through the influence of the Catholic Clergy. I feel that I have said enough on this subject. I am satisfied that I have no occasion to vindicate myself to any of my friends now present; but I know that a cry has been got up against the Scotch of Zorra. I am sorry for it. I did hope that the Scotch had become convinced that they were, in a great measure, deluded at the last election. The cries which were then raised had no reference to the general politics of the country. My opinions respecting Mr. Burns, or Lower Canadian education, are not of the slightest importance as far as Provincial politics are concerned. These cries have been got up by interested parties, for the express purpose of deceiving the public.—If I were disposed to get up a cry against my opponent I have opportunities in abundance. When I came to Woodstock the other day I was surprised at the alteration in the toll gates, and on asking the cause I found that it was generally ascribed to the influence of the County Representative. One gate was removed away from the town;—the effect of this was to enable certain aristocratic Gentlemen to reach it without passing the gate, while at the western end the gate had been placed in such a position that those who never use the road especially the Zorra farmers, are obliged to pay toll. Nothing could be more unjust. Then there was the subject of the Clergy Reserves valuations. When I was in office I had an opportunity of recommending District valuers for these lands. The principle upon which the appointments were made was that persons of each party should be selected, so that none would have a right to complain of partiality. I recommended Mr. Van Norman of Dereham, well known as an upright, honourable man of great experience, and Mr. Henry Carroll, who certainly had no claims on the ground of his family connections to recommend him to me. But I looked on Mr. Carroll as one who would do justice to his neighbours and hence my selection of him. These gentlemen were engaged in the discharge of the duties assigned them when news arrived that all proceedings were to be suspended. It turned out that Mr. Riddell and a Mr. Sprague, of whom probably a majority of you have never heard, had given evidence before the Crown Land Commission that the Brock District lands were undervalued? I do not charge Mr. Riddell with giving an opinion contrary to his conscientious belief; but every one knows that the bias of a man's mind is to think well of property which he is personally interested—it is well known that Mr. Riddell is a large land holder in Zorra. (Cheers.) And who is Mr. Sprague? A gentleman who has obtained a large tract of land in Blenheim from which he has dispossessed the actual settlers, and who is, of course, a most disinterested witness. On such testimony were the sales of the reserves suspended; and this notwithstanding the opinions expressed by several Conservative members of Parliament as to the correctness of the valuations in their districts; and although Mr. Riddell and Mr. Sprague thought the reserves undervalued, the Brock District Council, having had the whole

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connected as I was with the organ of Catholics as it is my duty to correct a mistake. It was Mr. Clergy had opposed the establishment in a highly creditable manner. At their classical education, with less than £30 a year. I do not wish to read papers which will ruin the first, strange manner. That print, on a "the Church of Rome, read education, and the which habitually neglected to work in the opposite attend, embodies all that the subject." The next from the Montreal Writteman here read an of the schools of the owing that about 18000 ous education through tholic Clergy. I feel on this subject. I am occasion to vindicate ends now present, but been got up and I am sorry for it. I did had become convinced that measure, deluded a cries which were then to the general politics opinions respecting Mr. dian education, are not as far as Provincial d. These cries have rested parties, for the receiving the public.— get up a cry against opportunities in abundance. stock the other day I eration in the toll gates, e I found that it was o the influence of the . One gate was re- ;—the effect of this aristocratic Gentlemen using the gate, while at e had been placed in e who never use the road farmers, are obliged to ould be more unjust. bject of the Clergy Re- hen I was in office I had mending District van s. The principle upon s were made was that ould be selected, so a right to complain of ended Mr. Van Norman as an upright, honour- rience, and Mr. Henry y had no claims on the mnections to recommend ked on Mr. Carroll as ce to his neighbours and him. These gentlemen discharge of the duties was arrived that all pro- sended. It turned out Mr. Sprague, of whom you have never heard, before the Crown Land rock District lands were ot charge Mr. Riddell n contrary to his con- verty one knows that the to think well of property interested—it is well in It is a large land holder and who is Mr. Sprague? obtained a large tract of which he has dispossee- and who is, of course, a s. On such testimony reserves suspended; and e opinions expressed by members of Parliament of the valuations in their Mr. Riddell and Mr. reserves undervalued, the l, having had the whole

loud and continued cheering.]  
The CHAIRMAN briefly returned thanks for the honour which had been done him. He was not in the habit of attending Public Dinners, and he felt himself unable to do justice to the toast proposed by his present duty on this occasion. He had, however, done his best (cheers).  
MR. VINING said, as his name had been mentioned by his hon. guest, he would say a few words in reply to the toast. He was the oldest member of the Brock District Council, having been elected on the establishment of Municipal Institutions in the Province. He consequently had much experience of their working, and he believed they were well calculated to promote the improvement of the country. He could not help reminding them of the exertions of their hon. guest to promote the establishment of those institutions.  
MR. SHENSTONE said that if Mr. Vining was the oldest member of the Council, he (Mr. S.) was the youngest. He was however, able to bear his humble testimony to the successful working of the Municipal Council of this District. When the Council was established the District was deeply in debt, but that debt had been paid off and they had now an overflowing treasury. & altho' during the present year considerable improvements, they had still £1500 in hand applicable to the same purpose. The assessed property of the District was £33,000 in advance of last year, being now upwards of £300,000.  
MR. MARLOW, of Oakland, one of the Vice Presidents, said that he had been entrusted with the next toast, which was one that fully expressed his own opinions. Responsible Government in its purity, not as it was at present carried out, was indeed the only safeguard of their liberties. (Applause.)  
6. RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT,—the only safeguard of our liberties.  
MR. VINING had been entrusted with the next toast. It was one that he could perhaps propose with peculiar propriety, as a professed member and office bearer of a Christian Church, and as a Conservator of the Peace, he would give them—  
7. CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ALL OVER THE WORLD.  
JEREMIAH COWIN, Esq., of Blenheim, said that he had been entrusted with a toast which he was sure would be most heartily responded to by those whom he saw around him—it was the Leaders of the united Reform party of Upper and Lower Canada. He need hardly remind them how important it was to preserve a cordial union between the Reformers in all sections of the United Province. Their honourable guest had gone fully into most of the great political questions of the day, but there was one question on which he (Mr. Cowin) wished to offer a few remarks. One of the charges brought against the ex-Ministers was their alleged abuse of the patronage at the Government. What however, had been the practice of their opponents? What Reformer had ever been appointed by them to office in this District? Even in the appointment of the Magistracy, not a single Reformer had been chosen, nor to the Commission on the Rebellion claims. With reference to the valuation of the Clergy Lands, he (Mr. C.) as an old inhabitant of Blenheim, could say that Mr. Sprague was entirely ignorant of the value of lands in that Township. He had acquired a large tract of land in a very good situation, but he was a non-resident. It was in the highest degree unfair to charge the settlers on those Clergy Lands the enhanced value caused by their own labour, and also rent or interest during the time they were in occupation. (Cheers.) He (Mr. C.) was well acquainted with public opinion in Blenheim; it had been called a Tory Township, but although at Mr. HINCKES' first election it gave a majority to Mr. CARROLL; it must be recollected that Mr. C. had avowed Reform principles, on which account he got his (Mr. Cowin's) support and that of others. At the last election, notwithstanding all the exertions of the office holders, from the Bailiff to the Magistrate, and several bad votes, there was a majority in Blenheim of three for Mr. Hinckes; and on another occasion that majority of three

by their Member, Mr. Powell, when a late one was issued, that gentleman, though Member for the County, had not even been consulted. (cries of "shame, shame") and as had been the case in this District so it was in the Talbot, the new appointments were generally unsatisfactory, even to the Tories. Their reflecting Commissioners to decide on the Rebellion claims, altho' certainly party considerations should have been overlooked, all the persons appointed were Tories. As the alterations in the School Act had been spoken of by their Guest, he wished to state one fact, and it was an important one, in confirmation of his statement that the expense would not be reduced by the abolition of the office of Township Superintendent. In the Talbot District, where he resided, the County Superintendent had been only paid for his actual expenses under the old system, whereas in consequence of the increase of labour, it had been found necessary to give him in addition a sum equal to the salaries of all the Township Superintendents and £14 besides (loud cheers.) Such was the practical working of a system which was to effect such a saving to the public; and let it be recollected that the Talbot District was one of the poorest in the Province, and where the chief labour was expended on the operations of agriculture. Ho [Mr. Hinckes] could not sit down without expressing his gratification at hearing the sentiments expressed that evening, and his surprise at the ability displayed by the gentleman who had addressed the Chair. The Gentleman who was their guest might well be proud of enjoying the confidence of such a constituency, and without offering anything like adulation, he would say that they might be proud of him. (loud cheers).  
The next toast was proposed by Mr. Shenstone, D. C.—  
12. Education free from sectarian or party influence, based upon such principles and conducted in such a manner as that every child in the Province may be benefited thereby.  
MR. HENRY, District Superintendent of Education, said that from his position it might be expected that he would offer a few remarks in reply to this toast. He would just say something on the subject of his appointment. His friends about him knew well the reluctance with which he had first accepted the appointment, and his diffidence as to his ability to fill it with credit to the Council and to himself.—He believed that he owed his appointment in some degree to the recommendation of the late excellent Superintendent, the Rev. Mr. Bosworth, and it was also in consequence of that gentleman's opinion of his fitness that he consented to act. He might, however, say, that he had gone through all the gradations of office. Under the old system he had been a School Trustee; when the Act of 1841 was passed, he had been elected a Commissioner in his Township, and appointed Chairman by his fellow members. Under the last Act he had been elected Superintendent of his Township, and when Mr. Bosworth resigned; he was chosen by the Council as District Superintendent. He was not aware that in the discharge of any of his duties, he had received blame from any of those with whom he had been connected. He had made these remarks in consequence of an allusion made to him by the member for this county (Mr. Riddell) in his place in Parliament. That gentleman had objected to the vesting the appointment to the office of Superintendent in the District Council on the ground of their incompetency to select, and had instanced the appointment in this District of a mechanic (hear, hear.) He would not enter at any length into the question of the School Act. No doubt it might be supposed that he approved of the change regarding the Superintendent, for he as District Superintendent would doubtless have a claim for increase of salary, owing to the increase of duty; he doubted however, whether the public would be benefited by it. There was a change made regarding the granting of certificates to the Teachers. These could now be given by the Visitors for the Township; and he (Mr. Henry) had determined that in future he would be most rigid in granting certificates to those alone who

of the Reformers of Middlesex, several of whom would have been present but for the weather.  
MR. GOBLE, of Blenheim, had been entrusted with a toast, but he felt great diffidence in speaking to it. It was the first Dinner of the kind he had ever attended, and he was not accustomed to public speaking. The advantages of Responsible Government had been ably descanted on, but to whom are we chiefly indebted for the concession of that principle? He (Mr. Goble) well recollected the time, not long distant either, when our Representatives had little or no influence on the Government, when Bills were passed by the House of Assembly only to be tomahawked by the Legislative Council. The Report of the Earl of Durham was the first important blow struck at the old system. Lord Sydenham, though he committed many errors, had formally sanctioned the principle of governing through a Provincial Administration, and the ever to be lamented Sir Charles Bagot had practically carried it into operation. We ought not on such an occasion to forget the services of those great men. He would propose—  
The Memory of the late lamented EARL OF DURHAM and SYDENHAM and  
MR. HINCKES rose to propose a toast to their worthy host, Mr. Henry, and doing so, he would make a remark on a subject which he had hitherto purposely avoided—the contested Election. His object in doing so was to express publicly his thanks, and the thanks of the Reformers of the District generally, to those individuals who had sacrificed so much time and money during the Scrutiny. He thought that without being invidious, he might mention the names of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Jordan Charles, Mr. Pichan, of Ingersollville, Mr. Doty, the Chairman (Mr. Carroll), Mr. Hendry, and Mr. Cowin. They all knew the circumstances connected with the contest. He would only say that he defied any one to point to an instance in the late Parliamentary history of Great Britain in which the Government had dared to tamper with a member serving on an Election Committee. (Loud Cheers.) The fact was undeniable that a member sworn to try a contested Election, while serving on a Committee, had been literally purchased by the Government. Terms had been offered and refused, and higher terms insisted on. Two Offices were not sufficient remuneration, a third was demanded, and the price was paid. (Cries of "shame, shame.") These facts must have produced an impression on the public mind. As to Mr. Riddell, he (Mr. Hinckes) had nothing to say against him. He had on all occasions borne testimony to his honourable and gentlemanly conduct. He had ever found him frank in the expression of his views, and he must say that on the subject of the reinvestment of the Reserves, Mr. Riddell had publicly declared what he would do on the day of nomination. No one who voted for him had a right to complain on this score. He had already trespassed too long on their time, and would now propose the toast he had read.  
A few volunteer toasts were then proposed, by others Mrs. HINCKES; the Ladies, by Mr. Kearney; the Agricultural Interest, by Mr. Hook. The Chairman expressed his high gratification at the orderly manner in which the proceedings had been conducted, and left the Chair at about half-past 10 o'clock, when the party broke up.  
PATRICK HENRY.—In Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry will be found the following sentiment, in reply to some observation of Judge Tyler in relation to the propriety of commercial restrictions: "Why," said Patrick Henry, "should we fetter commerce! If a man is in chains, he droops and bows to the earth, for his spirits are broken—looking sorrowful at his feet—but let him twist the fetters from his limbs and he will stand erect—stretching himself and assuming the look of proud defiance.—Fetter not commerce, sir! let her be as free as air—she will range the whole creation, and return on the wings of the four winds of heaven to bless the land with plenty!"—This is a noble sentiment and every way worthy of its author.  
The Senate of the free city, Frankfort, has just published a proclamation, allowing the importation of corn duty free, into the territory of the republic.



